

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 have been rejected as unpatentable over Kristensson, US 5,167,577 in view of DE 2608792.

Claim 1 recites an air supply device with an inner part 12 of porous material and an outer part 13 with rectilinear, uniform passages for generating rectilinear and uniformly distributed partial air streams 6a for making a turbulent zone 7a around a clean air-zone 7 more narrow so that the turbulence around the clean air-zone becomes less.

Kristensson discloses an air discharge member 9 with a porous material 13. In order to impart self supporting properties to the discharge member 9, an outer covering 16 consisting of heat resisting plastic or wire netting may be used. The porous material 13 generates air streams which leave the air discharge member 9 in an uncontrolled manner in various directions that give rise to undesired turbulence. Accordingly, Kristensson does not describe or suggest passages that generate rectilinear and uniformly distributed partial air streams for making a turbulent zone around a clean-air zone more narrow so that the turbulence around the clean-air zone becomes less.

The air supply unit described in DE 2608792 does not require absolutely clean air streams with no impure air. The air supply unit includes an inner, thin woven fabric with conical nozzles and an outer wire netting as a protective layer. The design of the nozzles and the outer wire netting provides a supplied air that is

spread in a turbulent manner causing co-ejection of substantial amounts of impure air. The air supply unit does not include an inner layer of porous material.

Furthermore, DE 2608792 does not describe or suggest passages that generate rectilinear and uniformly distributed partial air streams for making a turbulent zone around a clean-air zone more narrow so that the turbulence around the clean-air zone becomes less.

The Office Action states that it would have been obvious to modify the air system of Kristensson, with DE 2608792, in order to reduce the exhaust velocity (Office Action, pages 5-6). The Office Action refers to "Description, ll. 18-19" of an English translation of DE 2608792. The applicant does not have a copy of the English translation to which the Office Action refers. The only translation that the applicant is aware of is the translation of claim 1, which only has 6 lines.

The Office Action fails set forth how the air system of Kristensson would have been modified to reduce the exhaust velocity. It is assumed that the Office Action is suggesting that it would have been obvious to replace the outer covering member 16 of Kristensson with the inner, thin woven fabric having conical nozzles of DE 2608792. It is respectfully submitted that one skilled in the art would not have modified Kristensson in view of DE 2608792 as suggested in the Office Action. Kristensson describes spreading the air to keep it together with a minimum of turbulence. The air supply unit of DE 2608792 is used to spread the air without regard to the risk of turbulence. Furthermore, Kristensson describes that the outer covering 16 consists of heat resisting plastic or wire netting to impart self supporting properties to the discharge member 9. The inner, thin woven fabric with conical

nozzles of DE 2608792 would not impart self supporting properties to the discharge member of Kristensson. Also, the porous material 13 of Kristensson and the thin woven fabric with conical nozzles of DE 2608792 are both described as inner parts. Accordingly, there is no suggestion or teaching that the thin woven fabric with conical nozzles of DE 2608792 would be useful as an outer part with the porous material of Kristensson as an inner part.

Assuming, arguendo, that Kristensson and DE 2608792 would have been combined by one of skill in the art as suggested in the Office Action, the resulting combination would not include all the limitations of claim 1. The resulting combination would not include passages that generate rectilinear and uniformly distributed partial air streams for making a turbulent zone around a clean-air zone more narrow so that the turbulence around the clean-air zone becomes less, since neither of the references describes or suggests passages that generate rectilinear and uniformly distributed partial air streams for making a turbulent zone around a clean-air zone more narrow so that the turbulence around the clean-air zone becomes less. Thus, claim 1 is allowable.

New dependent claim 23 recites that the porous material retards air flow such that air flow is distributed over an entire inner surface of the inner part 12 and a semi-laminar flow is generated at an inner surface of the outer part 13 (Specification, pages 4-5, lines 29-37 & 1-6). Neither Kristensson nor DE 2608792 disclose this feature.

New dependent claim 24 recites that the outer part 13 generates laminar air streams thereby minimizing a width of turbulent air zones and mixing of surrounding

impure air. (Specification, page 3, lines 3-22). Neither Kristensson nor DE 2608792 disclose this feature.

Claim 1, as well as claims 2-24 which depend from claim 1, are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,



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